

Authorities partner to improve Brownsville senior housing complex

By Patty Yauger HeraldStandard.com | Posted: Friday, October 12, 2012 2:00 am

The Fayette County Housing Authority will partner with the county redevelopment authority to make improvements at a Brownsville senior housing complex.

In unanimous action, the housing authority board approved the financial agreement on Thursday that will provide \$364,500 for improvements at Mulligan Manor.

Andre Walters, housing authority director of funding and asset planning, said the amount is a portion of a \$4.1 million grant received by the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority through the federal economic stimulus package in 2009.

“The (\$364,500) is 60 percent of what we need for the project,” said Walters, adding that the money must be earmarked for projects that improve energy efficiency. “We were going to do this project through the capital fund budget. Now that portion can be used elsewhere.”

The total project cost is estimated at \$600,000.

The rehabilitation work includes the replacement of windows and siding and upgrades to the heating, ventilation and cooling systems, along with roof improvements.

Walters said the project is currently in the design phase, with contracts to be awarded in February and work to begin in March.

A part of the agreement includes that the redevelopment authority will administer the funding, with the housing authority to pay it \$10,000 for the service.

The resolution was approved by housing authority board members Harry Fike, Mary Wertz, Beverly Beal and Harry “Bo” Joseph. Board member Robert Onesko was absent.

In other business, the board discussed the planned acquisition of a Uniontown property provided it can secure tenants for the site.

Housing authority solicitor John Purcell said that the East Main Street property is currently a metered parking lot. However, if purchased by the authority, a four-story office complex would be erected.

Purcell said that the authority is also working with the Social Security Administration and the Government Services Administration (GSA) to have the local Social Security office relocate to the new property, if completed.

Other potential tenants, said Purcell, may be other county agencies, including the redevelopment authority.

“It would make sense to have all the services needed by the customers of the housing authority and Social Security office in one place,” he said.

In other matters, the housing authority also conducted the following business:

n Awarded a contract to R.E. Michel Co. Inc. of Glen Burnie, Md., for the purchase of maintenance, repair and operation equipment and supplies at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

n Approved a contract with W.W. Grainger Inc. of Harrisburg, for the purchase of maintenance, repair and operation equipment and supplies at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.